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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,848	03/16/2004	David K. Biegelsen	117364	1293

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EXAMINER	
OLANIRAN, FATIMAT O	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2615	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/800,848	BIEGELSEN, DAVID K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FATIMAT O. OLANIRAN	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 July 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *2,7 and 12* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. Applicant's remarks have been considered. Examiner's rejection has been amended to address the new limitations in claim 1 and 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: -- encoding the computer readable medium---.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagida et al. (2001/0043510) in view of Pompei (2001/0007591).

Yanagida discloses a method for processing hypersonic signals, comprising: generating a signal (paragraph 59 line 1-3); and forming a plurality of individual transducer outputs of the signal at a plurality of phases, the outputs having a common frequency and amplitude (Fig. 6 and paragraph 60 line 1-3), the individual transducer outputs generating wavelets (Fig. 6 and paragraph 63, a wave produced for time T propagates in the air and produces wavelets) originating at a common origin with reference to a first axis, and the plurality of phases being generated using electronic delays; forming one or more focused hypersonic beams based on the wavelets (paragraph 61 line 1-6); receiving one or more reflected hypersonic signals; detecting objects based on the reflected hypersonic signals ; generating the plurality of hypersonic wavelets (Fig. 6 and paragraph 61) based on a set of parameters that specify one or more neighborhoods for the hypersonic beams (paragraph 12 line 14-25);

Yanagida does not disclose learning a set of parameters for optimal focus on said objects; and transmitting audio information based on the parameters to one or more of the objects detected at locations corresponding to the neighborhoods based on the learned set of parameters.

Pompei discloses a set of parameters for optimal focus on said objects (paragraph 35 line 1-6 and paragraph 54 line 5-11); and transmitting audio information based on the parameters to one or more of the objects detected at locations corresponding to the neighborhoods based on the learned set of parameters (paragraph 35 line 1-6 and paragraph 54).

Pompei does not explicitly disclose learning a set of parameters, however it would be obvious to one of obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that determining the distance from the object (paragraph 54) and determining a phase shift for optimum focus (paragraph 35 line 1-6) is equivalent to learning new data for the system.

Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the scan and detect system of Yanagida with the audio system of Pompei in order to be able to be able to project audio to select users in a crowd.

Claim 3 analyzed with respect to claim 1, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose synthesizing one or more hypersonic ping signals; and emitting the hypersonic ping signals as the focused hypersonic beams (Yanagida; paragraph 12 line 1-25).

Claim 4 analyzed with respect to claim 1 and 3, Yanagida in view of Pompei discloses encoding the hypersonic ping signals using one or more frequencies; and directing each of the focused hypersonic beams in different directions, each of the focused hypersonic beams corresponding to one of the hypersonic ping signals (Yanagida; paragraph 12 line 1-25).

Claim 5 analyzed with respect to claim 1, Yanagida in view of Pompei discloses further comprising: setting a coordinate system for a space; scanning the space based on the

coordinate system (a coordinate system is inherent to a space); and recording object parameters corresponding to detected objects (Yanagida; paragraph 12 line 14-25).

Claim 6 analyzed with respect to claim 1 and 5, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the coordinate system is suitable for one, two or three dimensional space (inherent).

Claim 8 analyzed with respect to claim 1 and 5-6, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose selecting one or more carrier hypersonic frequencies based on the parameters; generating one or more side bands, one side band corresponding to each of the carrier hypersonic frequencies, the side bands being encoded with audio information (Pompei; paragraph 8 line 4-12); generating a plurality of output signals, each of the output signals corresponding to one of the side bands; generating a plurality of sets of phase shifts; generating a plurality of driving signals, each of the driving signals being a combination of the plurality of output signals, wherein each of the output signals is phase shifted by an appropriate phase shift of the set of phase shifts for that output signal; and driving each of the hypersonic wavelets with one of the driving signals (Pompei; paragraph 8 line 32-46).

Claim 9 analyzed with respect to claim 1 and 5-6, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose further comprising: receiving environment information; and setting the parameters based on the environment information (Pompei, paragraph 54, line 5-11).

Claims 10, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose a computer readable medium or a modulated signal being encoded to perform the method of claim 1 (Pompei, paragraph 40, line 12-16).

Claim 11, Yanagida discloses an apparatus that processes hypersonic signals, comprising: a memory (paragraph 53, line 8-9); a plurality of transducer elements formed into a transducer element, array the transducer elements all having a common position with reference to a first axis (Fig. 5 and paragraph 44 line 1-4);
a driver that drives the transducer elements with a signal at a plurality of phases, the driver having a delay processor that forms the phases of the signal causing the transducer element array to form a focused hypersonic beam (paragraph 61, line 1-6);
a detector that detects objects based on echo signals received by the transducer element array (paragraph 53, line 1-8);
Yanagida does not disclose learning a set of parameters for optimal focus on said objects and a signal generator that generates an output signal to encode audio information for transmission to a chosen location based on the learned set of parameters.
Pompei discloses a set of parameters for optimal focus on said objects and a signal generator that generates an output signal to encode audio information for transmission to a chosen location based on the learned set of parameters (paragraph 35 lines 1-6 and paragraph 54).

Pompei does not explicitly say learning a set of parameters, however it would be obvious to one of obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that determining the distance from the object (paragraph 54) and determining a phase shift for optimum focus (paragraph 35 line 1-6) is equivalent to learning new data for the system.

Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the scan and detect system of Yanagida with the audio system of Pompei in order to be able to be able to project audio to select individuals in a crowd.

Claim 13 analyzed with respect to claim 11, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the signal generator comprising: a frequency selector that selects one or more frequencies based on transmission parameters (Pompei, paragraph 22, line 7-9, acoustic transducers) ; a delay processor that determines a plurality of delays corresponding to the hypersonic transducer elements that is required to form a focused hypersonic beam directed at a specified direction (Pompei, paragraph 23, line 9-14); and a signal generator that generates a signal that includes selected frequencies, the signal being delayed by a corresponding one of the plurality of delays before driving each of the hypersonic transducer elements through the driver (Pompei, Fig. 4 and paragraph 34, line 1-10).

Claim 14 analyzed with respect to claim 11 and 13, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the frequency selector selecting the frequencies based on a noise environment

(inherent to the operation of a transducer) the frequencies being selected to form a code to enhance reception of echoes of the focused hypersonic beam from the objects (Yanagida, paragraph 55, line 1-4 and paragraph 57, line 1-4).

Claim 15, analyzed with respect to claim 11, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose further comprising a controller that sets a coordinate system for a space, scans the space by directing the focused hypersonic beam to proceed based on the coordinate system, and records coordinates of detected objects based on echoes from the focused hypersonic beam (Yanagida paragraph 12, line 12-25).

Claim 16 analyzed with respect to claim 11 and 15, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose further comprising a signal generator that generates an output signal corresponding to each of the hypersonic transducer elements based on parameters stored in the memory, the controller specifying a neighborhood for the focused hypersonic beam based on one or more object locations and controlling the signal generator to generate the output signal to encode audio information for transmission to the neighborhood (Pompei, paragraph 54, line 3-11 and paragraph 21, line 1-4).

Claim 17 analyzed with respect to claim 11, 15-16, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the signal generator generating the output signal to include a side band for

encoding the audio information(Pompei; paragraph 8 line 4-12);

the delay processor generating a set of driving signals, each of the driving signals being the output signal delayed by one of a set of delays corresponding to phase shifts for each of the transducer elements to form the focused hypersonic beam; and

the driver driving one of the driving signals to each of the transducer elements to form the focused hypersonic beam (Pompei; paragraph 8 line 32-46).

Claim 18 analyzed with respect to claims 11, 15-17, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose wherein the controller selects one or more carrier frequencies for transmission of a corresponding plurality of audio information (Pompei, paragraph 22, line 21-25), the signal generator generating a plurality of output signals and the delay processor generating a plurality of sets of delays, the delay processor delaying each of the output signals by a corresponding set of delays for one of the plurality of audio information the delay processor combining all delayed output signals for each of the transducer elements and outputs combined output signal to the driver for driving each of the transducer elements (Pompei, paragraph 22, line 7-15 and paragraph 23, line 9-14).

Claim 19 analyzed with respect to claims 11, 15-18, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the hypersonic transducer transmitting a plurality of focused hypersonic beams, each of the focused hypersonic beams delivering one of the plurality of audio information to a unique neighborhood as based on the delays (Pompei, paragraph 39, line 1-20).

Claim 20 analyzed with respect to claims 11, 15-18, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose the controller receiving environment information, and selecting carrier frequencies and amplitude of the output signals based on the environment information (Pompei, paragraph 39, line 11-20).

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Claim 21 analyzed with respect to claims 11, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose means for scanning a space using a focused hypersonic beam; means for detecting the objects based on echo signals of the focused hypersonic beam (Yanagida, paragraph 12, line 3-25); and means for delivering audio information to a neighborhood of detected objects (Pompei, paragraph 8, line 4-10).

Claim 22 analyzed with respect to claims 11 and 21, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose means for scanning the space using multiple focused hypersonic beams (Yanagida, Fig. 15 and paragraph 90, line 1-6); and means for delivering unique audio information to different neighborhoods using multiple hypersonic beams (Pompei paragraph 39, line 11-20).

Claim 23 analyzed with respect to claim 1, Yanagida in view of Pompei disclose further comprising: receiving a hypersonic signal (Yanagida, paragraph 96, line 1-2); and delaying the hypersonic signal by a plurality of phases to select portions of information in the hypersonic signal (Yanagida, paragraph 98, line 1-7).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FATIMAT O. OLANIRAN whose telephone number is (571)270-3437. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FO

/Vivian Chin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2615